

Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership Success Story



Cummins Filtration
1200 Fleetguard Rd.
P.O. Box 6001
Cookeville, TN 38502-6001
(931) 372-9788
www.fleetguard.com



Scrap Metal & Filter Paper Recycling Saves Big \$

The Member

Cummins Filtration (formerly Fleetguard, Inc.) is a wholly owned business unit of Cummins Inc. and the world's leading designer, manufacturer, and distributor of air, fuel, hydraulic, and lube filtration, chemicals, and exhaust system technology products for diesel and gas powered equipment. Cummins Filtration has operated the Cookeville, Tennessee manufacturing facility since 1967. The Cookeville facility contains 396,000 square feet of filter manufacturing operations, research and development labs, and administrative offices and employs more than 900 people. The site maintains both an ISO 14001 and a TS 16949 management system certification. Cummins Filtration is committed to fostering a cleaner, healthier, and safer environment in every community in which our employees live and work. Going beyond basic compliance, we proactively seek improvements to our products and processes and offer environmentally friendly product choices for all major engine systems.

The Story

Historically, the Cummins Filtration facility in Cookeville shipped large quantities of scrap filters and filter paper to the landfill because the trash compactor was the most convenient method to dispose of these wastes. In 2004, site management began to realize that landfill disposal was neither the most cost effective nor the most preferred disposal method for this material. Thus, a project was initiated with the goal of reducing the amount of solid waste shipped to the local transfer station for landfill disposal. Conducted as a Six Sigma Greenbelt Project, this project was designed to achieve both an annual cost savings for the site and a

reduction in the site's environmental impact on the local community.

The Success

By partnering with PSC Metals to find new methods and opportunities for recycling a greater amount of its solid wastes, the Cummins Filtration Cookeville facility achieved a 58% reduction in the amount of solid waste shipped to the local transfer station for landfill disposal. This solid waste reduction project diverted an average of 70 tons per month of landfill bound materials to the recycling market. The project generated an average annual savings of \$117,000 from decreased tipping fees and increased recycling revenues. From August 2004 through July 2005, the site saved \$60,000 in tipping fees at the local transfer station and realized \$48,000 in additional revenue from selling scrap metal and paper products. From August 2005 through July 2006, the site saved \$62,000 in tipping fees and realized \$64,000 in additional revenue from recycling.

The Pollution Prevented

This solid waste reduction project reduced the amount of landfill bound waste materials from an average of 120 tons per month to an average of 50 tons per month and generated an average annual savings of \$117,000 from decreased tipping fees and increased recycling revenues. An average of 70 tons per month of scrap metal and filter paper are now shipped to a recycling outlet, instead of a local landfill.

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